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Altos News

PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Stewart Harper

This is very similar to my last report and I have decided to keep it upbeat and hope next month's report justifies that decision!

January was a big month for PA, and Christophe and his team did a terrific job of organising both the Pro Am and the Senior Pro event.

Golf took place over three different courses and our course received many plaudits for its challenges and the variety of the layout and holes. The dollar spot was rarely mentioned and the green staff worked hard to present the course in the best possible condition. I heard more grumbles about the sand in the Quinta North bunkers, which I can attest were a real challenge!

Gordon Brand finished second with his team in the Pro Am; losing out to Simon Brown who proved his qualities by also winning the Senior Pro event. Both were great players but as a young senior, Simon shows length off the tee is still crucial. My own failure to drive the ball 250 yards meant I was playing five woods for many second shots "ouch".

Next year's event will take place on the Laranjal course and I suspect the popularity of the event may mean there will be little room for many amateurs unless they are category one players. I hope John Waters will continue to offer his generous support by sponsoring the event, and in reality, without him it wouldn't have been able to happen!

Christophe will no doubt report on competition results. We have also decided to run the Valentine's event over one day at PA

on the 14th and postpone the Medal until later in the month. The cost of playing over two days and dinner provided by the hotel was just too much to attract the numbers we had hoped for.

I hope that the investments myself and Christophe have much spoken of over the last few months will still come to fruition but I cannot say when it will happen. We are concentrating on making the offering to members as good as possible. This means a fine course, good food, drink and golf competition.

Our friendly match at Quinta De Cima proved rather less friendly than I had hoped as they beat my team 5-0 on their very own testing course. We will get revenge at home!

I am preparing for our annual Social Golf event, which will include the Quinta do Lago members and their Captains. I am sure this will be very enjoyable. Iain Callaghan and his team are to be applauded for all their work for Social Golf.

The mixed challenges, which I and the Lady Captain have been playing over the last 10 months, are coming to an end. They have been great fun and raised good money for our charity. We are having an end of year dinner in the next week or so for all the participants and will announce the winners and losers! Many thanks to all who have played.

Lastly, next month is the start of the Inter Club competition and I wish every success to our team and its Captain David Pirret and his Vice Captain Geoff Stott.



Paul Wesselingh, Miguel Angel Martin, Philip Price, Simon Brown, Juan Quiroz, John Waters and Andrew Murray



Nigel Sweet, Juan Quiroz and Tournament Co-Sponsor John Waters



Amateur Winners of the Week

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

The highlight of January 2016 after the New Year's Day Scramble was the Algarvian Invitational Senior Tournament, which was played for its fourth year running. The same as last year, it was organized as a joint venture with Quinta do Lago and played over the Pinheiros Altos Pines-Corks course and Quinta do Lago North course over four very competitive rounds of golf. On the final hole of the final round, three players were in contention; Simon Brown, Paul Wesselingh and Juan Quiroz. Simon managed to win with a score of 13 under par for the four day tournament...even with Juan Quiroz shooting 65 on his closing round to tie in second place at 12 under par with Paul Wesselingh. Simon Brown won the €7,000 prize money for first place. The tournament was a great success with 105 players, 80 of which were professionals.

The tournament started with a dinner at Bovino, which was much appreciated by all players and guests. While the presentation took place at Pinheiros Altos on the putting green, and even the sun was part of the day. Both courses were presented in top condition and all players were very complimentary about the tournament organization, which is a ramp to grow for next year. Of course, the tournament would not have been possible without the on-going support from the sponsor John Waters who has been sponsoring since the first event. He was joined this year by Denis O'Brian as a joint sponsor. Thanks to them the prize money for the tournament was up to €32,020.

We are already planning next year's tournament, which will be as strongly supported as this year; we already have the sponsor confirmed and many players have already shown interest in returning to the Algarve to play next year.

Prior to the Algarvian Invitational, we also organized the first Algarvian Charity Pro Am in Partnership with Quinta do Lago, San Lorenzo and Dona Filipa hotel. It was played over Quinta do Lago South and North, San Lorenzo and Pinheiros Altos. The majority of the 92 participants stayed at Dona Filipa Hotel and we feel 23 teams competing in the first year showed great success. All the teams have already confirmed their participation

in next year's Algarvian Charity Pro Am, which will be open to 35 teams in total. The winners were James Murphy's team with Eric McNichol, Blake Norton and Sam Prince as his three amateurs. They scored 34 under par for the four days. The individual Pro score was won by Simon Brown for shooting four under par... and he also went on to win the Algarvian Invitational the following week.

On a personal note I would like to thank all my staff involved in organizing the tournament and especially the Greens Staff with the help of the Greens Committee. They have made a tremendous effort to recover the golf course and presented it in a fantastic condition.

Winter Medal was won by Fiona Thomson with a score of 71, while the January Stableford was won by Melody Cotterill with a score of 40 points. Congratulations to both ladies on their win!

Please keep an eye open for the Easter board, which will be up soon - with a special day planned on 20th March to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

I wish you all a great start to the Golf Season and look forward to seeing many of our members during the Easter break!



Cheque for €2000 being Presented to the Charity Apatris 21



Co-organiser Christophe Rindlisbacher with Nigel Sweet



John Waters, Sally Evans and Co-Organiser Brian Evans



Winners of the Optional Day at Laranjal



Top Four Pros of the Individual Score; Gordon Brand (2nd), Peter Allan (3rd), Jack Eckhardt (4th) and Simon Brown (Winner)



James Murphy Team; Winners of the Algarvian Charity Pro Am



Simon Brown Team 4th Place



Christian Vine Team 3rd Place



Gary Hutchinson Team 2nd Place



Klas Tenmark Team Best Score on Quinta do Lago South



Nick Williams Team Best Score on San Lorenzo



David Padgett Team Best Score on Pinheiros Altos



Keir Smith Team Best Score on Quinta do Lago North

AGM

The A.G.M. of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club will take place on Thursday 24th March 2016 at 10am in the Clubhouse.

Questions for the Director of Golf at the A.G.M should be made in writing and presented at the Golf Office on or before Thursday 10th March 2016.

Only questions made in writing and presented by the due date will be answered by the Director of Golf at the A.G.M.

If any principal member would like to stand for election as Incoming Vice-Captain they should notify the Golf Office, proposed and seconded by four principal members in writing on or before Thursday 10th March 2016.

It is also my pleasure to present a photo gallery of the present Captains and incoming Captains, Lady Vice-Captain and proposed Incoming Club Vice-Captain below.

Agenda

- 1. 10am: Meeting is opened by the Chairman of the A.G.M**
- 2. The Chairman will introduce the outgoing Captain, Mr. Stewart Harper**
- 3. Mr. Stewart Harper will summarize his year and introduce the Captain for the coming year, Mr. Knut Pedersen**
- 4. The Captain's acceptance speech**
- 5. Report from the Director of Golf including the response to written questions**
- 6. The Chairman closes the meeting**



Stewart Harper – Club Captain



Knut Pedersen – Incoming Club Captain



David Ford – Proposed Incoming Club Vice-Captain



Cathy Harper – Lady Captain



Mai Markey – Incoming Lady Captain



Zoë Pirret – Incoming Lady Vice-Captain

!!! Caterpillar Alert !!!

The Algarve is renowned for its abundance of wildlife and insects, in particular its many species of butterflies and moths.

Over the next few weeks, the Pine Processionary Moth larvae, whose hibernating nests adorn the many pine trees around Pinheiros Altos, will hatch into hundreds of large, hairy, striped caterpillars.

Action to remove nests took place in November 2015 and will be repeated over the next few weeks, however some areas may still have caterpillar nests.

Whilst they may look interesting and harmless, please do not touch any hairy caterpillars as their hairs are often toxic.

Not everyone is allergic however, direct contact can cause burn-like lesions on the fingers and other parts of the skin.

Contact with the airborne hairs can cause an itchy rash and even conjunctivitis of the eye in some cases.

Parents and guardians should also be particularly watchful of young children.

Antihistamine creams will help any itching and those with eye problems should seek professional medical help.



Competition Results for January

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Sun 3rd	Winter Medal	Fiona Thomson	71 Nett	Angus Flanagan	73 Nett (BB9)
Wed 6th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Zoë Pirret	76 Nett	1st Division Susan Russell	77 Nett (BB9)
		2nd Division Melody Cotterill	75 Nett	2nd Division Lisa Burns	82 Nett
Wed 13th	6 Club Team Event	Susan Russell Amanda Stretton Pat Murrish	72 Pts	Rie Cherubini Marianne Wiren Josie Waddington	69 Pts
Wed 20th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Susan Russell	39 Pts	1st Division Helen Mills	36 Pts
		2nd Division Yvonne White	29 Pts	2nd Division Melody Cotterill	28 Pts
Sun 24th	January Stableford	Melody Cotterill	40 Pts	Nevin Prakash	38 Pts
Wed 27th	3 Team Event	Amanda Stretton Lubna Cater Vera Watkins	86 Pts	Linda Bentley Paula Burke Kathy Grimm	85 Pts

Ladies Section - by Cathy Harper

January has flown by and the ladies competitions have been well attended for the time of year – excellent weather conditions helping to bring out the fair weather golfers.

We welcomed Amanda Stretton as a new member and are pleased that she will be a regular Wednesday player in the ladies competitions. She has featured in the winning teams in both January ‘fun’ competitions and will be a great asset to the club.

Our January Medal competition was won in Division One by Zoe Pirret with a good score of 76 nett. Well done Zoe, especially as her handicap had just been reduced at the annual review.

The same for Melody Cotterill whose handicap had also been cut, and she won Division Two with a nett 75.

Susan Russell won the Division One Stableford with an excellent score of 39 points, while Yvonne White won Division Two with 29 points. Well done ladies.

Our other two competitions were fun games, which I think everyone enjoyed; so good so far. However, I am determined to spring a Yellow Ball on everyone before my term of office is over!

The Algarvian Invitational Seniors took place over four days in the middle of January. It was good to watch some of the professionals and interesting to see that they, like some of the amateurs, found it difficult off the championship tees! My husband managed to play five rounds of golf in six days, and

although he enjoyed the experience of playing two rounds with the professionals, he did need resuscitating at the end of the week! Congratulations to all those who took part, and to Christophe and all the staff who worked so hard to make the event a success.

We are looking forward to our trip to Monte Rei at the end of February and having a couple of days away with other members of P.A. experiencing playing a different course in lovely surroundings. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can enjoy it to the full.

On March 9th we will be holding a charity sale of second-hand handbags, belts, scarves, shoes, and first-hand cakes! Any donations will be gratefully received but we ask that items be in good condition please — preferably things that you no longer have need for and not things you just want to get rid of. The sale will take place in the Clubhouse after the Lady Captain verses the Lady Vice, and will start at about 12.30. Friends and wives of our gentlemen players are very welcome, so please come along to support this worthy cause. All the monies raised will go to the children’s homes in Olhao and Alvor. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

On a final note, the Ladies Invitation Day is in the diary for both May and September. That is a mistake and the actual day is May 25th.

Happy golfing to you all throughout February.

PRO TIP - Kenny Fairbairn

Chipping

- Get close to the ball and feel your arms connected to the ribs
- Body is aimed at 11 O’clock (12 being the target line)
- Hands in the middle of the legs, directly below sternum
- Always go down the grip for added feel and control
- Body creates the energy, arms go along for the ride
- A little right hand release is common in tour players

Keep it more neutral to make it work!



Report from the Greens Committee

The exceptionally mild winter has accelerated the recovery of the greens from the “dollar spot”, which caused so much anguish for us and members over the autumn months. It had the perverse effect of us seeing, I believe for the first time in many years, “fusarium patch” on the fairways and in particular on the first of “Pines”.

The greens are now much better and members will see that we have returned to both micro tining and using a roller to increase the “stimp meter” reading, and therefore the speed on the greens. The green’s staff have fertilized all the greens with a fine quality fertilizer, which should be evident with fine sward and colour in the next few weeks.

We received many positive comments about our course from professionals at the recent Senior Pro Tournament, and the winning score of 13 under par reflected what quality golf can produce. The two courses used in the competition also reflected similar scores, although many professionals felt it was difficult and maybe “overlong”. Your Captain certainly struggled but managed to complete the four rounds...and was better than quite a few others!

The tining programme continues on the fairways and should be complete by the month’s end. With decent spring rain and feeding, we hope to see good growth and

better conditions for members to play their longer clubs off the fairways.

The laying of the water pipe from the bore hole on Corks to the Olives should be complete before the end of March. This will improve the turf conditions on the fairways of Olives, which needs attention.

The course is generally “tidy” but presentation, hand cutting of the tees and edging the bunkers needs to be maintained. Some bunkers (less than before) still require digging out and re-sanding where the sand has solidified under the surface.

Members will have seen that one of the pines fronting the green on the first of Pines has been removed, and more work needs doing to remove excess canopies. It is in hand!

The committee would like to see evidence of new equipment, which has been promised to take the course to the next “level”. Without modern equipment, we will suffer from break downs of equipment and struggle to keep our course in pristine condition.

We remain as ever vigilant, and members should feel free to report any conditions that they believe require attention.

Stewart Harper, Captain, Gordon Todd, Tony Hickey.



Social Golf by Iain Callaghan

The first Social Golf Competition of this year was held on 10th January, in an easy-going Waltz format. There were 40 players, plus five guests for supper - an excellent turnout following so soon after all the Christmas and New Year events. Despite a doubtful weather forecast we were only adversely affected by light showers for about three holes.

Some very good scores of 10 and 12 under par were recorded respectively on Pines/Corks and Olives/Pines by the winning teams comprising of Stewart Harper, Nick Tucker-Brown, Molly Wainwright and Stella Jeffrey, alongside Malcolm Hollier, Fiona Thomson, Keith Hirst and Iain Callaghan. The runners-up were respectively Ken Irving, Andy Watkins, Eva Lamaison and Ineke Goossens, as well as Michiel Van Doorn, Cathy Harper, Paul Cotterill and Val Bayston.

Following an excellent supper (applauded by all) and prize-giving, Molly Wainwright was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a small token of recognition as a founding member, establishing Social Golf and her sterling service in chairing the Committee for over 12 years.

The next Social Golf outing will be the annual event, combined with members from Quinta do Lago, to be held at P. A. on 7th February.

Steve Robins of Hull Golf Club, who has used Pinheiros Altos as his Winter base for the past few years due to its great practice facilities and slightly better weather than Yorkshire, has been busy preparing for the new season. He begins with the Portuguese Amateur and Spanish Amateur Championships, and has been seen working hard with our Head Professional Ross Sutherland at the club. Over the past four years, Steve has seen his handicap come down from 0.4 to an impressive +3.9. He is now one of the Top 10 Players in England and has broken into the Top 400 Amateur Players in the world. Ross will also be accompanying Steve to Seville as his coach for the Spanish Amateur Championship at the beginning of March. We would like to wish Steve all the best for these tournaments and for the season ahead.

Forthcoming Events February and March

Tues 2nd February	Club Roll Up
Wed 3rd February	Ladies Day
Sat 6th February	Mens Roll Up
Sun 7th February	18 Holes Social Golf with Quinta do Lago
Tues 9th February	Club Roll Up
Wed 10th February	Ladies Foursomes Championship
Sun 14th February	St Valentine Mixed Pairs Scramble
Tues 16th February	Club Roll Up
Wed 17th February	Ladies Day
Sat 20th February	Mens Roll Up
Sun 21st February	February Medal
Tues 23rd February	Club Roll Up
Wed 24th February	Ladies Day
Sat 27th February	Mens Roll Up
Sun 28th February	St David 's Stableford
Tues 1st March	Club Roll Up
Wed 2nd March	Ladies Day
Thurs 3rd March	Men Pairs Matchplay
Fri 4th March	Men Pairs Matchplay
Sat 5th March	Men Pairs Matchplay
Sun 6th March	Men Pairs Matchplay & Stableford
Tues 8th March	Club Roll Up
Wed 9th March	Lady Captain Vs Lady Vice Captain
Sat 12th March	Mens Roll Up
Sun 13th March	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 15th March	Club Roll Up
Wed 16th March	Madrinha Trophy
Sat 19th March	Mens Roll Up
Sun 20th March	St Patricks Day Stableford
Mon 21st March	Ladies AGM & Captain 's Drive In
Tues 22nd March	Club Roll Up
Wed 23rd March	Ladies Day
Thurs 24th March	Golf AGM & Captain 's Drive In
Sat 26th March	Spring Medal & Past Captains Day (NO ROLL UP)
Sun 27th March	Easter Scramble
Tues 29th March	APPA AGM & Competition
Wed 30th March	Ladies Day